

**Term 4**  
**Linguistics**  
**Lesson 4**

# **Sociolinguistics**

Moustafa Amrate  
moustafa.amrate@univ-biskra.dz  
English Department  
University of Biskra

# **What is Applied Linguistics?**

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- Using theoretical language knowledge to solve real-world language-related problems.

- **Includes fields like:**

Language teaching, translation, forensics,  
speech therapy, neurolinguistics, sociolinguistics

....

**Today's focus: Sociolinguistics**

# Sociolinguistics

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# Sociolinguistics

It is concerned with how social factors like **class**, **gender**, **age**, and **ethnicity** influence language.



# **Historical Development of Sociolinguistics**

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Labov (1966) “***The Social Stratification of English in New York City***”

Trudgill (1974) “**The Social Differentiation of English in Norwich**”

# Historical Development of Sociolinguistics

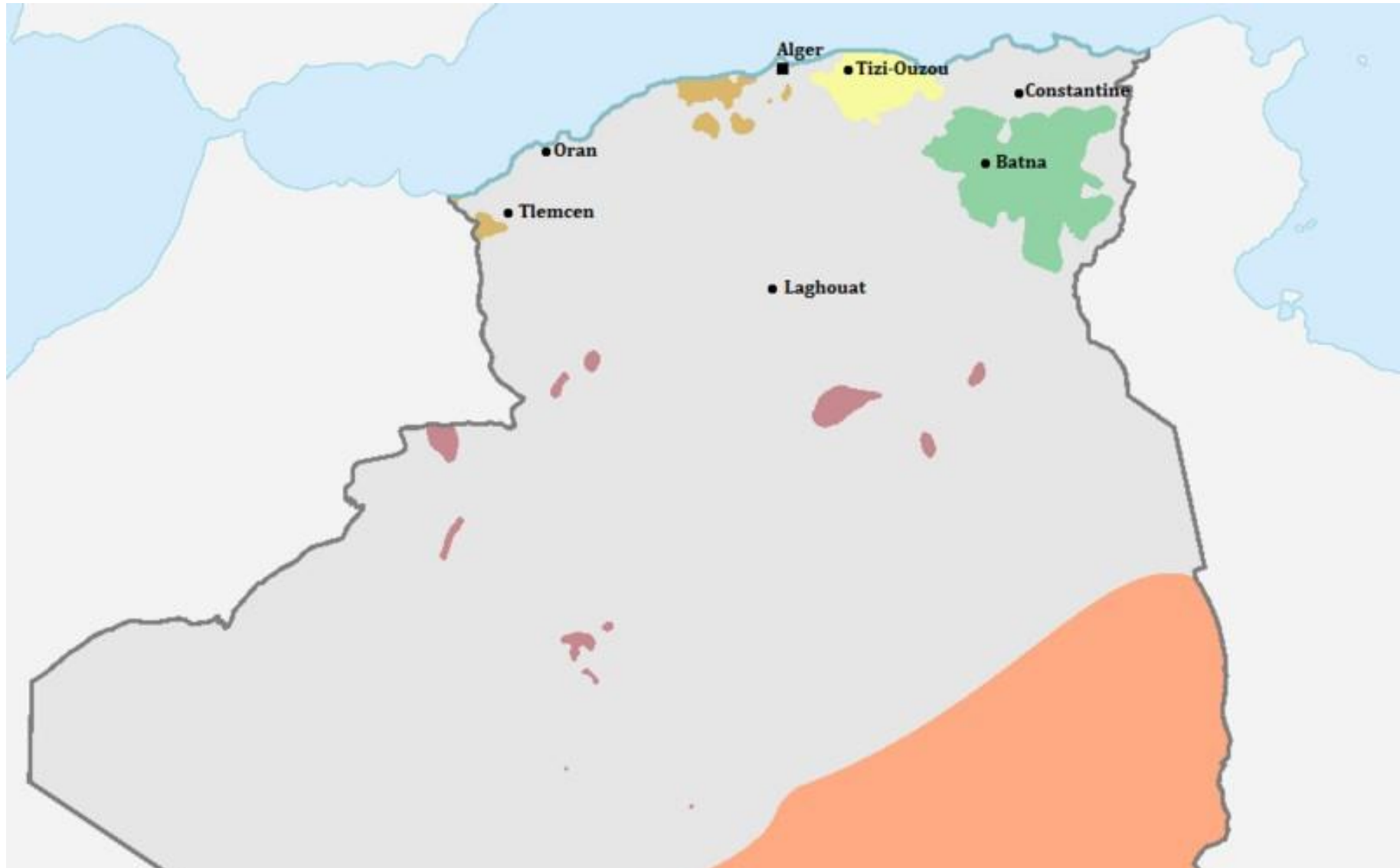
- Emerged in the 1960s within applied linguistics
- Influential early works:
  - Labov (1966) “*The Social Stratification of English in New York City*”
  - Trudgill (1974) “**The Social Differentiation of English in Norwich**”
- Integrates **linguistics, sociology, and anthropology**

# **Sociolinguistics Language Variation**

Sociolinguistics is particularly interested in the variation of regional and social dialects and accents.

(Labov, 1972)

# Language variation in Algeria



# **Sociolinguistics Language Variation**

There are a couple of terms that need to be understood when studying/ research language variation.

For example: Dialect, Accent, Pidgin, and Creole ....

# Dialect vs. Accent

## DIALECT

A variety of a language with distinct **vocabulary**, **grammar**, and **pronunciation**

### Example:

Algerian Arabic (Darija) vs.  
Egyptian Arabic

# Dialect vs. Accent

## DIALECT

A variety of a language with distinct **vocabulary**, **grammar**, and **pronunciation**

### Example:

Algerian Arabic (Darija) vs. Egyptian Arabic

## ACCENT

A way of **pronouncing words** that shows a person's regional or social background

### Example:

Algiers accent vs. Constantine accent



# Dialect vs. Accent

## DIALECT



Algerian Arabic: "Wesh rak?"



Egyptian Arabic: "Ezayak?"

# Dialect vs. Accent

## DIALECT



Algerian Arabic: “Wesh rak?”



Egyptian Arabic: "Ezayak?"

## ACCENT



Algiers accent “weš rak?”



Constantine accent “waš rak?”

# Pidgin VS. Creole

## Pidgin

- A simplified contact language for basic communication between groups with no common language.
- A pidgin is a **simplified mixed language** with **no native speakers**.

## Creole

- “A creole is a stable, fully developed natural language that originates from a pidgin and becomes the first language of a community.”

(Holm, 2000)

# Pidgin VS. Creole

## Pidgin

### Example:

#### “The Nigerian Pidgin English”

A mix of English and local languages in Nigeria that **is not a native language** of any people.

“How you dey?” = “How are you?”

## Creole

### Example:

#### “Jamaican Creole (Patois)”

A pidgin (mix of English and western African languages) that has **become the native language in Jamaica.**

“Mi a go a di market.” = “I’m going to the market.”

# Register

- Formal/informal language depending on context

# Code-switching

- The practice of alternating between two or more languages or varieties of language in conversation.

## **Example:**

- "I told the kids, "no mas" TV tonight!" Or, "I told the kids no more TV tonight!"
- "I swear Rani tired today"

# Issues in Sociolinguistic Research

- **Language & identity** (e.g., *the use of a foreign language to express global identity*)
- **Multilingualism** (e.g., *In Switzerland, citizens switch between German, French, Italian, and Romansh*)
- **Language attitudes & ideologies** (e.g., *In post-colonial Algeria, some view French as a symbol of colonial oppression*)
- **Language policy & planning** (e.g., *Algeria introducing English to primary schools*)
- **Language & gender** (e.g., *In Western cultures, studies show women tend to use more standard language forms than men*)

# Contributions of Sociolinguistics

- Reveals how power and inequality affect language use
- Supports inclusive language education policies
- Informs language preservation and revitalization
- Helps design effective language curricula in multilingual contexts